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Safety & Security Report: Sound Bombs in Turkey

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Europe - Turkey

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The U.S. Regional Security Office at the U.S. Embassy Ankara reported the following:

On January 30, at 15:30 hours local time, a small percussion bomb, or sound bomb, detonated on the ground floor of the four-story

Turkish American Association building in Adana. Although there was substantial damage to the lobby and four Turkish nationals sustained minor injuries, three students and an employee, there were no fatalities. At the time of the explosion, there were over 40 people in the building but few were in direct proximity to the bomb.

This is not the first such explosion at this building. In April 2005, a Molotov Cocktail bomb also detonated at this facility. Although the perpetrators of the first attack have not been arrested, the Turkish National Police (TNP) suspect that Turkish leftist terrorist groups that are anti-American in nature are responsible for both attacks. However, as the materials used in these attacks differ, the TNP also believe that separate groups executed these attacks.

Four days before this latest attack on the Turkish American Association Building, a similar percussion bomb detonated at the Turkish National Police Child Protection Unit Building also in Adana.

It should be noted that small, improvised explosive device and percussion bomb explosions are not uncommon in Turkey's major cities. Although, Turkish government facilities are frequently the target, some of these low-level explosions have occurred at banks, spas and in up-scale residential neighborhoods in the past two months. American citizens have not been the target of such attacks, however, all American citizens should practice personal vigilance and report suspicious objects or incidents to the local authorities.

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